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Title : Need to provide adequate funds for promotion of Tamil as a classical language.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (MADRAS NORTH): Tamil language which is being spoken by more than 10 crore people is a very ancient language which dates back to stone age. It is one of the classical languages in the country.

However, for the development, promotion and research of this classical language, the Centre has not done anything so far; nor any significant funds provided in the Budget. There is lot of rare literature, Sangam time literature, great epics like Silappathigaram, Manimekalai, Aga Nanooru, Pura Nanooru, famous two line metre verses 'Thirukkural' authored by Thiruvalluvar which requires translation into other languages for the benefit of the people all over India. Bi-annual and Annual competitions should be held for the students of Tamil language at the national level for the promotion of this classical language. When more funds are being given to Sanskrit in the name of classical language, I request the Government to see that Tamil which is also a classical language is given the same status. They should introduce a scheme to award scholarships to students at school and college level, besides for M.Phil., and Ph.D . The Centre should also bring out a schemes for providing grants to State Governments, Deemed Universities and NGOs for promotion of Tamil as a classical language.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government, especially the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development and also the Hon'ble Finance Minister to provide adequate funds in the Budget and formulate various schemes and programmes for the promotion and development of classical language Tamil in the country.